

Appl. No. 10/618,781  
Preliminary Amendment with RCE  
Dated November 2, 2005

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants again acknowledge receipt of the Office Action dated February 28, 2005 in which the Examiner (1) modified his restriction requirement; (2) objected to the Abstract as containing the words "is disclosed;" (3) rejected claims 1, 8, and 9 as anticipated under § 102(b) by Smith (U.S. Patent No. 3,567,808) (hereinafter *Smith*); (4) allowed claims 16-55; and (5) indicated that claims 2-7 and 10-55 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In Applicants' previously filed *Response to Office Action*, mailed on May 9 2005, applicants amended claims 1, 8, and 9 and asserted claims 1, 8, and 9 were not anticipated by *Smith*. In particular, claim 1 was amended to include additional limitations. Following that *Response to Office Action*, applicants received a *Notice of Allowability* dated August 2, 2005, allowing claims 1-55.

Upon reconsideration of the case, however, applicants believe that the scope of the claims was unnecessarily narrowed by the amendments and remarks made in the May *Response to Office Action*. Thus, applicants now wish to reclaim the unnecessary reduction in scope by placing certain dependent claims in condition for allowance by rewriting such dependent claims in independent form instead of allowing them to depend from an amended base claim.

Specifically, Applicants have placed previously-allowed claim 2 in condition for allowance by rewriting claim 2 in independent form, including the limitations of original claim 1. The scope of claim 2 is now identical to the scope that was allowed in the February 28 Office Action. Likewise, Applicants have placed previously-allowed claims 7 and 10 in condition for allowance by rewriting each in independent form, including the limitations of original claim 1, thereby restoring their scope to that which was allowed in the February 28 Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 7, and 10 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 3-6 depend from claim 2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-6 are allowable, since claim 2 is allowable.

Claim 11 depends from claim 10. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is allowable since claim 10 is allowable.

Claim 1 has not been amended in the present Amendment, as it was rendered allowable by the amendments made in the previously filed and entered *Response*.

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New claims 57-64, which depend from independent claim 1, are analogous to and therefore replace original claims 2-7, 10, and 11. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 57-61 depend from allowable claim 1 and are therefore also allowable.

New claims 65-69, which depend from now-independent claim 2, are analogous to original claims 7-11 and are allowable because claim 2 is allowable.

New claims 70-78, which depend from claim now-independent 7, are analogous to original claims 2-6, and 8-11 and are allowable because claim 7 is allowable.

New claims 79-86, which depend from claim now-independent 10, are analogous to original claims 2-9 and are allowable because claim 10 is allowable.

The subject matter of new claims 57-86 are supported by the specification as originally filed and do not constitute new subject matter.

Applicants believe all pending claims are allowable over the art of record and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all claims.

#### Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendments place the case in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections and allow the case. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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